

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MEETING SEPTEMBER 22

CHAIRMAN SEVILLA SACASA (NICARAGUA) CALLED MEETING OF
COMMITTEE OF SEVEN SEPTEMBER 22 TO HEAR REPORT FROM
COLONEL PADILLA (VENEZUELA), RETIRING CHIEF OF OAS OBSER-
VER MISSION ON SALVADOR/HONDURAS BORDER. ACCORDING TO
PADILLA, SINCE MUTUAL PULLBACK OF FORCES FROM FOUR BORDER
ZONES, TENSION HAS DIMINISHED MARKEDLY BUT DANGER OF NEW
OUTBREAK REQUIRES CONTINUING PRESENCE OF OAS OBSERVERS
PENDING RESOLUTION OF BASIC CAUSES OF DISPUTE. HE
EXPRESSED HOPE IMPLEMENTATION OF WASHINGTON AGREEMENT
WILL BRING END TO POTENTIAL CONFLICT. BOTH MILITARY
ESTABLISHMENTS, UNDER DIRECTION OF HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR
CHIEFS OF STAFF, HAVE COOPERATED FULLY WITH OAS OBSERVER
MISSION IN PREVENTING INCIDENTS AND SITUATION IS QTE IN
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GENERAL, NORMAL UNQTE DESPITE FACT TWO ARMIES STILL ON

PRE-WAR ALERT. PADILLA STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF HELICOPTERS
IN MAINTAINING BORDER SURVEILLANCE. (FYI: DOD HAS
TASKING MEMO FROM STATE RE EARLY DESPATCH OF TWO MORE
HELICOPTERS). AFTER INITIAL DELAY BY ONE PARTY (HONDURAS),
PADILLA SAID BOTH SIDES NOW DESTROYING NETWORKS OF
TRENCHES IN DISPUTED BORDER ZONES AND REMOVING WAR
SUPPLIES AS WELL AS TROOPS ACCORDING TO STIPULATIONS OF
MANAGUA AGREEMENT. HE CONCLUDED PRESENTATION BY INVITING
COMMITTEE OF SEVEN AMBASSADORS TO VISIT HONDURAS/EL
SALVADOR AND SEE OAS OBSERVER TEAM IN ACTION FULFILLING
ORGANIZATION'S PEACEKEEPING MISSION. KISSINGER

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